IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3, 14, and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows:

4   1. (Currently amended)   A method of multicasting program
5   content, said method comprising:

6   providing encrypted program content for distribution to a client
7   as part of a multicast distribution;

8   ~~providing a~~ distributing a free preview key for use by said
9   client in decrypting a first portion of said encrypted program content; ~~and~~

10   distributing a first portion of said encrypted program content to
11   said client as part of said multicast distribution, wherein said first portion of said
12   encrypted program content is encrypted so as to be decrypted by said client using said
13   free preview key so as to obtain a free preview of said program content;

14   wherein said distributing a free preview key comprises
15   providing said free preview key to said client prior to said distributing said first
16   portion of said encrypted program content to a plurality of client computers.

1   2. (Currently amended)   The method as described in claim 1
2   ~~wherein said providing a key comprises~~ and further comprising:

3   providing a content key for use by said client in decrypting said first
4   portion of said encrypted program content.

1   3. (Cancelled)   ~~The method as described in claim 1 and further~~
2   ~~comprising~~

3   ~~providing a free preview key; and~~

4   ~~providing said free preview key to said client prior to said~~
5   ~~distributing said first portion of said encrypted program content.~~

1   4. (Currently amended)   The method as described in claim 3 1

2 and further comprising

3   providing a content key;

4   encrypting said content key with said free preview key; and

5   providing said encrypted content key to said client.

1   5. (Original)   The method as described in claim 1 and further

2 comprising:

3   offering to said client said free preview of said program

4 content.

1   6. (Original)   The method as described in claim 5 and further

2 comprising:

3   providing a user interface for use by said client in purchasing

4 said program content.

1   7. (Original)   The method as described in claim 1 wherein said free

2 preview comprises a movie trailer.

1   8. (Original)   The method as described in claim 1 wherein said free

2 preview comprises an advertisement for said program content.

1   9. (Original)   The method as described in claim 1 wherein said

2 program content comprises a movie and wherein said free preview is comprised of the

3 beginning of said movie.

10. (Original) A method of multicasting program content, said method
comprising:

              providing program content for distribution to a client as part of

a multicast distribution;

distributing a first portion of said program content to said client in an unencrypted format so as to provide a free preview of said program content;

encrypting a remaining portion of said program content;

distributing said encrypted remaining portion of said program content to said client.

1   11. (Original) The method as described in claim 10 and further
2 comprising:

3   providing a key; and

4   utilizing said key to accomplish said encrypting said remaining
5 portion of said program content.

1   12. (Original) The method as described in claim 11 and further
2 comprising:

3   allowing said client to purchase said program content;

4   providing said client with a key operable to decrypt said
5 encrypted program content after said client purchases said program content.

1   13. (Currently amended)   A method of providing program content
2 to a plurality of clients in a multicast system, said method comprising:

3   providing a server for communication with a plurality of client
4 computers;

5   configuring said server so as to be operable to provide said
6 program content to said plurality of client computers;

7   providing a free preview of said program content to said
8 plurality of client computers; ~~and~~
9   <u>providing said free preview for a period of time sufficient to</u>
10 <u>allow a predetermined number of said purchasing client computers to receive said</u>
11 <u>keys operable for decrypting said encrypted portion of said program content;</u>

12   during said free preview, providing each purchasing client

13   computer with a key operable to decrypt at least a portion of an encrypted portion of

14   said program content.

1   14. (Cancelled)   ~~The method of claim 13 and further comprising:~~

2   ~~providing said free preview for a period of time sufficient to~~

3   ~~allow a predetermined number of said purchasing client computers to receive said~~

4   ~~keys operable for decrypting said encrypted portion of said program content.~~

1   15. (Currently amended)   A computer-readable medium having

2   computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

3   providing encrypted program content for distribution to a client

4   as part of a multicast distribution;

5   ~~providing a key for use by said client in decrypting a first~~

6   ~~portion of said encrypted program content; and~~

7   <u>providing a free preview key;</u>

8   <u>and then</u> distributing a first portion of said encrypted program

9   content to said client as part of said multicast distribution, wherein said first portion of

10   said encrypted program content is encrypted so as to be decrypted by said client using

11   said <u>free preview</u> key so as to obtain a free preview of said program content.

1   16. (Original) The computer readable medium as described in claim

2   15 wherein said providing a key comprises providing a content key for use by said

3   client in decrypting said first portion of said encrypted program content.

1   17. (Cancelled)   ~~The computer readable medium as described in~~

2   ~~claim 15 and further comprising:~~

3   ~~providing a free preview key; and~~

4   ~~providing said free preview key to said client prior to said~~

5   ~~distributing said first portion of said encrypted program content.~~

1   18. (Original) The computer readable medium as described in claim

2 15 and further comprising:

3   providing a content key;

4   encrypting said content key with said free preview key; and

5   providing said encrypted content key to said client.

1   19. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-

2 executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

3   providing program content for distribution to a client as part of

4 a multicast distribution;

5   distributing a first portion of said program content to said client

6 in an unencrypted format so as to provide a free preview of said program content;

7   encrypting a remaining portion of said program content;

8   distributing said encrypted remaining portion of said program

9 content to said client.

1   20. (Cancelled) ~~A computer-readable medium having computer-~~

2 ~~executable instructions for performing a method comprising:~~

3   ~~providing a server for communication with a plurality of client~~

4 ~~computers;~~

5   ~~configuring said server so as to be operable to provide said~~

6 ~~program content to said plurality of client computers;~~

7   ~~providing a free preview of said program content to said~~

8 ~~plurality of client computers; and~~

9　　　　　　　　during said free preview, providing each purchasing client

10　computer with a key operable to decrypt at least a portion of an encrypted portion of

11　said program content.